

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 16383 201126Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01
XMB-04 OPIC-06 /116 W
----- 065540 /43

R 201024Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8339
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS JAKARTA 16383

E.O. 11652: N/
TAGS: ASEAN, ETRD
SUBJECT: ASEAN RESPONSE TO US MTN OFFER

1. EMBOFF WAS CALLED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY DECEMBER 20 TO
RECEIVE FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM. FONMIN OFFICIALS SAID
IT WOULD BE PASSED TO USG IN GENEVA AND OTHER ASEAN
CAPITALS AS WELL AS JAKARTA. IN EVENT THIS HAS NOT
YET BEEN DONE WE ARE TRANSMITTING FULL TEXT.

2. GENGIN TEXT:

ASEAN JOINT MEMORANDUM TO THE UNITED STATES
1. PURSUANT TO THE CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING-UP AND
RECORD OF DECISIONS AT THE MEETING OF 18-20 OCTOBER
1976, THE ASEAN COUNTRIES MAKE THIS SUBMISSION WITH A
VIEW TO THE IMPROVEMENT AND EARLY IMPLEMENTATION BY
THE UNITED STATES OF ITS OFFER IN RESPONSE TO ASEAN
REQUESTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WISH
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PAGE 02 JAKART 16383 201126Z

TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN BY DE-
VELOPED COUNTRIES IN PART IV OF THE GATT AS WELL AS THE
TOKYO DECLARATION. THEY WOULD ALSO RECALL THAT AS
EARLY AS 1963 THE UNITED STATES ENDORSED THE OBJEC-
TIVE OF DUTY-FREE ENTRY FOR TROPICAL PRODUCTS.

2. THE ASEAN COUNTRIES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION THE

MEASURES THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES IN PROMOTING CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH ASEAN, INCLUDING ITS POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ASEAN REQUEST LIST ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THE RESPONSE FROM THE UNITED STATES IN THE FORM OF OFFERS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS WAS ONLY WORTH APPROXIMATELY \$190 MILLION, BASED ON UNITED STATES IMPORTS IN 1973, AS COMPARED TO THE TOTAL ASEAN REQUEST OF \$528 MILLION FOR THE SAME YEAR. FURTHERMORE, THE ASEAN COUNTRIES NOTE THAT IN MANY INSTANCES THE DEPTH OF TARIFF CUT IN THE UNITED STATES OFFER HAS BEEN RESTRICTED BY THE NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY OPERATING.

3. THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UNITED STATES THAT REQUESTS FROM ASEAN COUNTRIES FOR A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT EXPORTS WHICH INCLUDES INTER ALIA SUGAR, TOBACCO, CANNED PINEAPPLE JUICE, TIMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS, TUNA, ABACA PRODUCTS, RUBBER AND RUBBER PRODUCTS, PRAWNS, SPICES, LEATHER PRODUCTS AND FOOTWEAR, TEXTILES, ELECTRONICS, TO THE UNITED STATES HAD NOT BEEN ACCORDED ANY OFFER. THE ASEAN COUNTRIES BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE NO INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS WHICH PREVENT THE UNITED STATES FROM INCLUDING THESE ITEMS IN ITS OFFER LIST AND HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO IMPROVING ITS INITIAL OFFER.

4. AS AN IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNER TO THE UNITED STATES, THE ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE A SUBSTANTIAL MARKET FOR THE UNITED STATES EXPORTS WHICH AMOUNTED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 JAKART 16383 201126Z

\$4.4 BILLION IN 1974. HOWEVER, EXPORTS BY ASEAN COUNTRIES TO THE UNITED STATES AMOUNTED TO ONLY \$3.4 MILLION (SIC) IN THE SAME YEAR.

5. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD WISH THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPLEMENT ITS INITIAL OFFER BY IMPROVING THE SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE CONCESSIONS IN THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES.

JAKARTA, 20 DECEMBER 1976.

END TEXT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, TROPICAL PRODUCTS, TEXT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JAKART16383
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760466-0743
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761229/aaaaaynp.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASEAN RESPONSE TO US MTN OFFER
TAGS: ETRD, ID, US, ASEAN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006